# The Importance of the Number Line in Understanding Fractions 

Arjan Khalsa
NCTM, April, 2014 New Orleans
Julie McNamara

## Why The Number Line?

## Support for the Number Line

- NAEP Results
- Natural extension from students' work with fraction kits and area models
- Common Core State Standards for Mathematics


# Number and Operations Fractions 

Grade 3
Develop understanding of fractions as numbers.

## Number and Operations Fractions

Grade 4

1. Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering.
2. Build fractions from unit fractions by applying and extending previous understandings of operations on whole numbers.
3. Understand decimal notation for fractions, and compare decimal fractions.

## Number and Operations -

 FractionsGrade 5

1. Use equivalent fractions as a strategy to add and subtract fractions.
2. Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions.

## Multiple Representations



## Understanding Fractions

## Part-Whole Relationships

- Part of an object, an area
- Part of a set or collection
- Part of a distance


## Create a representation that shows 1 /3

## Defining a Fraction

What does it mean to be $1 / 3$ ?

- Measurement definition
- A length (area/value) is 1/3 of another length (area/ value) if it takes three copies or iterations of the first length (area/value) to complete the whole.
- CCSSM Definition
- Understand a fraction $1 / d$ as the quantity formed by 1 part when a whole is partitioned into $d$ equal parts; understand a fraction $n / d$ as the quantity formed by $n$ parts of size $1 / d$.


## Using Free Fractions Tools

- iPad
- Go to the iTunes App Store
- Download Conceptua Math
- Laptop
- www.conceptuamath.com
- Student sign in (upper right corner)
- Log in
- Customer: nctm2014
- Sign in:
s1 ....s33
- Password: 1234


## Fractions Tools

Concepts to Procedures



Add Fractions with Common Denominators


Adding Fractions with Uncommon Denominators


Subtract Fractions with Common Denominators


Subtract Fractions with Uncommon Denominators

Higher Order Thinking


Unitize Fractions using Pattern Rlocks


Make Equivalent Fractions

Divide Fractions - Divide Fractions -
Partitive


Multiply Fractions Measurement

Fraction


Place Fractions on a Estimate Fractions Number Line

## Understanding Fractions as Numbers

Location on a Number Line Estimation and Precision

Comparisons and Equivalence

## Fraction Tents - Hands On

1. Talk with your partner or table group about where your number should go on the number line.
2. Once you agree, place your number on the string.
3. Return to your seat and discuss the placement of the other numbers on the string. Should any of the numbers be moved? Why?

## Fractions Tools

Fractions
Concepts to Procedures


Identify Fractions

| 3 | 3 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 6 |

Make Equivalent Fractions with Word Sentences


Compare Fractions


Common Denominators


Add Fractions with Common Denominators


Adding Fractions with Uncommon Denominators


Subtract Fractions with Common Denominators


Subtract Fractions with Uncommon Denominators


Make Equivalent Fractions


Divide Fractions -
Partitive


Multiply Fractions


Divide Fractions Measurement

Higher Order Thinking


## Fractions Tools



## Tools in Action


www.conceptuamath.com

# Division with Fractions A Very Difficult Topic 

The Importance of Language Using a Double Number Line

## Types of Division Situations

- Partitive Division: group size is unknown
- Measurement Division: number of groups is unknown.
- (also called Quotative)


## Partitive Division

- Arjan left his hotel, went to a jazz club, and then walked back later, a very happy person. When he checked his GPS, he saw that he had walked a total $3 / 4$ of a mile.
- How far did he walk to go to the jazz club? How long was his one-way trip?
$3 / 4$ shared equally among 2


## Measurement Division

- Julie has $3 / 4 \mathrm{lb}$. of chocolate and needs $1 / 2 \mathrm{lb}$. to make her favorite fudge recipe.
- How many batches of fudge can she make with the chocolate she has?

How many $1 / 25$ are in $3 / 4$ ?

## Free Materials



## More Free Fractions Tools

Real World Investigations

T-Shirts:
Keep the Teacher in the Equation

Rich classroom discussions. Visual and conceptual learning.


## Julie McNamara

## - juliemcmath@gmail.com

- Beyond Pizzas and Pies: 10 Essential Strategies for Supporting Fraction Sense, (Math Solutions)
- Upcoming workshops:
- 319- Understanding Fraction Computation by Applying and Extending Previous Understandings
-Friday, 4/11, 8:00-9:15, 210 (Convention Center)


## Arjan Khalsa

- akhalsa@conceptuamath.com
- www.conceptuamath.com

